

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 5, 2004**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on April 5, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Houghland, Scruggs, and Tabb. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist.

Staff Attending: Department Heads Nester, Hudson, Serra, Deputy Chief Sloggie, and Assistant City Manager Miller.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

OPEN FORUM

David Kranbuehl, 201 Harrison Avenue, encouraged Council to implement the ideas coming out of the study being done by John McLaughlin regarding the commercial development of Richmond Road.

Mr. Kranbuehl reported to Council about the previous weekend when his sleep was prevented because of disorderly and drunken students. Police responded but the students outnumbered the police. Automobiles were vandalized in the area. He has spoken with the City Manager and Police Chief, but the situation is out of control. It should be a priority. It is a quality of life issue and he will not tolerate anymore. The incidents are serious and repeated, and he hoped that the nuisance ordinance would be fully implemented. He credited the majority of college students as being tremendous people, but a small percentage of college seniors are a problem. They are destroying the ability of all students to interact with the community. Fines should be increased to \$1,000 for this type of offense.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Kranbuehl for his comments.

No one else wished to speak. The session was closed.

BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

Williamsburg/James City County Schools FY 2005 Budget Presentation

Dr. John Alewynse, Chair of the School Board, greeted Council members and said he was pleased to make the presentation regarding the FY 2004-05 Adopted Operating Budget. The Code of Virginia requires a school board to put together a budget that addresses the amount of monies needed to operate the public school division. With the assistance of Mr. Thornton, Dr. Alewynse began the review of the Board's Powerpoint presentation (see attached), starting with Strategic Plan Goals and Priorities for the School Division. He reviewed the teacher's starting salary, and the comparison and competition with other jurisdictions.

Ms. Ann Brown, Vice-Chair of the School Board, reviewed budget initiative priorities. Dr. Alewynse explained the increased costs in the operating budget, a 9.69% increase over the current year.

Ms. Brown reviewed the per pupil expenditure of \$8,126 and the pupil/teacher ratio, and how those figures compared with other school districts. Projected revenues were reviewed. More funds will be received from the State because of the increase in student enrollment (primarily from James City County). The city's school population is static.

Dr. Alewynse addressed the comparable Local Composite Index. Projected revenues will be received from local, state, federal and other funding.

Dr. Carol Beers addressed enrollment, up 400 students, and in the coming year, another 194 are expected and perhaps more.

Dr. Alewynse reviewed capital improvement projects but noted they will not be funded in the coming year. The school budget totaled \$83,282,461, an increase of \$7,357,967 (or 9.69%). This is a budget based strictly on need. He thanked Council for their strong support.

Mayor Zeidler thanked all of the School Board and staff members for being present and for their comprehensive presentation. She noted that the City Manager's budget includes funding the full request of the school board. Council appreciated the priorities identified by the School Board. Money is increasingly difficult to come by. The schools have improved. The Composite Index is not always the best comparison. In addition to comparison with others, Williamsburg should be measuring its own improvement. Mr. Houghland mirrored the Mayor's comments and urged the school board to present a zero based budget.

Dr. Beers said that should the State further reduce school revenues, a reduction in work force would be necessary. In accordance with the recommendation from the Virginia School Board Association, they will notify teachers that they would not be engaged if State funding were not received. Ms. Beers was not hopeful that the State would increase funding.

Mr. Haulman discussed attraction and retention of teachers. Eighty-five percent of the budget is for salaries and benefits. He noted that while the city's contribution to the school budget is decreasing because of the existing funding formula, the city would continue to contribute to capital costs.

FY 2005 Proposed Budget Update

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated April 2, 2004. Mr. Tuttle reviewed the changes to the budget since the budget work session and discussion were held. The changes to the General Fund Revenues and Expenditures reflected a net result decrease of \$10,000. Council will continue to receive updates/changes until the budget is adopted in May. A public hearing will be held at the May Council meeting regarding the \$2.00 per night lodging tax ordinance. Mr. Tuttle explained how the collection and accounting of the \$2.00 tax revenue would be handled.

Sharpe Community Partnership Program Student Survey

Reference for this item was Mr. Nester's Report dated March 30, 2004, and included a copy of the survey questions. Mr. Nester reported this was the third year of participation by the Planning Department in the Sharpe Community Partnership Program Study. This year the students prepared a student survey about the city that will be used as input for the Comprehensive Plan process.

Steven Combs, Sharpe Fellow and Graduate Student, provided background on the Sharpe Program which is a service learning program for 75 William and Mary freshmen each year that participate with community partners, such as Mr. Nester and the Planning Department. They work in groups of five or six students. Mr. Combs introduced the members of the team that will present the survey review: Jonathan Hemler, Cara Lodigiani, Colin Verbesey, Nicholas Walsh, and Cathy Young, and said the purpose of this presentation is to review the highlights of the survey.

Each of the students addressed a different aspect of the survey "A Survey of William and Mary Students to Provide Input During the Comprehensive Plan Update Process," which included questions such as where do you live, shop, dine, how much do you spend, do you volunteer, issues facing the city, service to the community, parking and transportation, and their likes and dislikes about the city. Conclusions and recommendations were that students would like the WAT bus hours extended, increase the number of unrelated people that can reside together from three to four, create opportunities for students to be part of the community such as serving on boards and commissions, and volunteering, and that the city should attract more businesses that cater to students. (Survey Report Attached).

Mayor Zeidler thanked the students for their presentation. This provides good information about students and their attitudes.

Mayor Zeidler announced that both Brian Canon and Jacob Rooksby (representing the Student Body at the College of William and Mary) attended the most recent Neighborhood Council Meeting. The Neighborhood Council voted to accept the Student Body of W&M as a full voting member of the association. It was hoped that this would help to enhance communication between the community and college.

Mr. Rooksby provided Council with a copy of the Internet study "Student Survey on Williamsburg Community Development," conducted by the Student Assembly Office of Community Affairs at the college, which focused on student opinions about student housing and businesses frequented by students. He reviewed the conclusions and recommendations (See attached).

Mr. Rooksby read a letter of proposal from the Student Assembly's Office of Public Affairs, recommending that an official student representative to the Williamsburg City Council be appointed and sworn into office (See letter). He asked that Council seriously consider the proposal and discuss it with the next Student Assembly Administration.

The Mayor said that this issue deserves thought and dialog. Council members will consider how to act on this issue.

Council members and the students discussed the survey results, including the responses, the timing of and concern about the perceived “anti-student” environment, the statistics, and conducting the survey on an annual basis for comparison. Council members commented that they were very impressed with the student’s presentation and their composure. Mr. Scruggs suggested that the students present their study results to the Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Zeidler said it is new to have students involved in the city—it is a beginning. She asked that the City Manager look into the best, most orderly and reasonable way to discuss the recommendations and report back to Council with a structure to facilitate communication between the students and city.

Mr. Haulman commented that the college administration must also be part of this. The enrollment at the college has increased but housing on the campus has not. Drinking is prohibited on campus and subsequently students go off-campus. The students, city, and college need to work to address these issues.

Preview of City Council Meeting: April 8, 2004

City Council members received copies of the Financial and Departmental Reports.

Mr. Tuttle noted that the Request of Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority to Acquire Vacant Lot and Two Houses on Pocahontas Street will be added to the April 8 agenda.

New Voting Machines: Council member received a memo from Voter Registrar Dave Andrew regarding the new voting machines. Council asked the City Manager to invite Mr. Andrews to the April 8 meeting (see attached memo).

City Council Communications

Mayor Zeidler noted that Senator Norment and Delegate Barlow attended the Neighborhood Council meeting and discussed State Budget impasse.

Mr. Haulman reported that 13 homes are under construction in the Strawberry Plains Subdivision, with applications for homes in place and being processed.

Schedule of Meetings: April 2004

Council members received a copy of the April Meeting Calendar.

OPEN FORUM

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Approved:
Shelia Y. Crist
Clerk of Council

Jeanne Zeidler
Mayor